

Remarks/Arguments

Election of Species Under 35 U.S.C. 121

The Office Action has required an election of species between the species designated A-I, and a further election between a species "1" for "substantially hard" and "2" for "substantially soft."

As required applicant hereby elects, with traverse, Species I corresponding to Figs. 17 and 18 and elects the species "1" for "substantially hard" as recited in Claim 2. The present claims readable on the elected species include Claims 1, 2 and 4-25. Applicant requests, upon allowance of a generic claim, that claims to the remaining species A-H be considered.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above-noted election requirement on the following ground. Pursuant to the second part of the required election, applicant has elected Species "1" for "substantially hard" as recited in Claim 2. With this election, all the Species A-I share the common structure of the first and second materials both being substantially hard. With this limitation applied to Claim 1, this claim will be generic to all the Species A-I, and therefore all should be examined at this time. More specifically, the structures identified in the Action as Species A-H differ by certain variations in size, shape and placement of bands, bumps and recesses; however, they all share the structure recited in the generic Claim 1. Accordingly, applicant believes it would be consistent and would not cause an undue burden on the Office for the prior art search and examination to cover all the embodiments A-I at the same time.

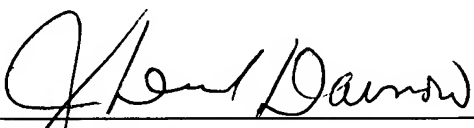
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In view of the above, reconsideration of the election requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

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